

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 17-19, and 21-34 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 5,562,838 (“Wojnarowski”).

Claims 1-19, and 21-34 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,539,157 (“Doi”).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited references do not disclose or suggest every element of any pending claim, as the following analysis shows.

Independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 22 each recite that the capping surface of the bonding material is located substantially only over the trench. This limitation was previously in claims 27, 29, 31 and 33, which are now cancelled as redundant. The cited references do not disclose this limitation. Although the canceled claims were previously rejected, the rejection did not address this particular limitation or distinctly point out where the limitation could be found in the references.

Wojnarowski discloses a capping surface 246 that extends all across the interface between the bonding material 244 and the substrate 230 (Figs. 19C, D). Wojnarowski does not disclose placing the capping material substantially only over the trench area. Conversely, Doi does not illustrate how much of the surface of cover material 30 is coated with the relevant material, but does show that portions of the cover that are directly over the trench are not covered because they are open to the passage of light (Fig.

1), and therefore Doi also does not disclose the limitation of a capping material substantially only over the trench area.

The remaining pending claims depend from independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 22, and therefore contain the same limitations not disclosed by the cited references.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. If any fee insufficiency or overpayment is found, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4-20-04

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